

APPENDIXES

APPENDIX A

CONTEMPORARY OBSERVATIONS

The purpose of the appendixes to this report is to provide a convenient sourcebook for use in investigating or interpreting 19th century army buildings. Since some of the material was discussed or presented fully in the text, there is necessarily some redundancy, although most of the appended materials received only summary treatment earlier.

Redundancy for the sake of convenience is greatest in this first appendix, which presents quotations of historic comments on the subject, arranged in categories similar to those dividing chapters in Part IV. Many of the original commentaries offered here, however, appear for the first time in this report.

It ought to be pointed out that this appendix begins with excerpts from old army songs, drawn from a single compilation. It should be noted that, soldiers' songs being what they are, some of them have been freely translated from the obscene. And since such lyrics evolve relatively fast, some of the versions presented are arbitrarily one of many. And although no attempt is made here to present every 19th century song touching on barracks furniture, it is interesting to note how few there are, in proportion to the total of unofficial military music. But it is hoped that those few give a small taste of the private soldier's attitude toward life in the barracks.

A Musical Interlude

"The Army Bugs"

Soldiers sing of their beans and canteens,

Of the coffee in old army cup,

Why not mention the small friends we've seen,

Always trying to chew armies up?

Chorus:

Those firm friends, tireless friends,
Hardly ever neglecting their hugs,
Their regard never ends--
How they loved us, those old army bugs.

--Dolph, Sound Off, 317; to the tune of "Sweet Bye and Bye"; probably Civil War period.

"Army Graybacks"

Shall we ever forget when we fought for the Union,
All the pleasure we sowed and the sorrows we reap't?
How we foraged for eggs and were robbed by the sutlers,
And the bugs that we nursed every night when we slept?
But those memories of war-time make food for reflection,
And cause the goose pimples to run o'er us yet;
As we cast a glance backwards to the skirmishing graybacks,
Those momemts so lively we'll never forget.
Those jolly old graybacks--notorious graybacks.
Those blood-thirsty graybacks we'll never forget.

Shall we ever forget when we first scraped acquaintance
With the bug most prolific this world ever saw?
And the mantle of blush that shown forth on our features,
When discovered aloof executing the law. (Crack finger-nails twice)

But soon we grew bolder when we found that all others
Were scratching as if it were festive and nice.
So when on long marches a brief halt was ordered,
We'd haul off some duds and go hunting for lice.
We all had to do it; we'll never forget it'
'Twas fun in two volumes to skirmish for lice.

--Ibid., 317; to the tune of "Old Oaken Bucket."

"The Regular Army, Oh!"

There's corns upon me feet, me boy, and bunions on me toes,
And lugging a gun in the red-hot sun puts freckles on me nose,
And if you want a furlough to the captain you do go,
And he says, "Go to bed and wait til you're dead in
the Regular Army, Oh!"

--Ibid., 6-9; this version, one of several current in the Army (few of them printable) in the 1870s, was written down by Ed Harrigan in 1874.

"There is No Work in the Army"

There is no work in the Army,
They call it all fatigue;
If the Provost catches you loafing,

He'll make you dance a jig.
It's either at the saw-mill,
Or shoveling up the clay,
Policing up or rolling rocks,
The long, long weary day.

--Ibid., 34-37; this is the chorus of a song popular in the Army in the 1890s, but versions of it are far older; compare its sentiments with comments below from the 1820s.

"O'Reilly's Gone to Hell"

O'Reilly swiped a blanket and shoved it up, I hear;
He shoved it for a dollar and invested it in beer.
He licked a coffee cooler because he said he'd tell.
He's ten day absent without leave. O'Reilly's gone to hell.

--Ibid., 54-56; Dolph says this was written in the late 19th century by Col. Gerald E. Griffen in "tribute" to the Irish sergeants of the post-Civil War Army.

"I Don't Want No More Army"

The officers live on top of the hill;
We live down in the slop and swill--

I don't want no more army.

Lordy, how I want to go home!

--Ibid., 10-11. Dolph has little to say about this standard, but its origins are probably as ancient and mysterious as those of "What Do You Do with a Drunken Sailor?" Like that other classic (also popular in armies), it is a ready vehicle for extemporaneous execration of life's nuisances. Innumerable versions of both have come and gone over the centuries; this one, possibly from as late as World War I, is one of the few that are fit to print.

Conditions in General

1804:

Being of opinion that for the general defence of our Country we ought not to rely on Fortifications but on men and steel, and that works calculated for resisting batteries of Cannon are necessary only for our principal seaposts, I cannot conceive it to be useful or expedient to construct expensive works for our interior military posts, especially such as are intended merely to hold the Indians in check.

--Secretary of War Henry Dearborn to Gen. James Wilkinson, June 28, 1804, quoted in Prucha, Sword of the Republic, 173.

1805:

Fort Detroit, Michigan--But, if brick cannot be made in the vicinity of the Fort, other materials should be procured . . . for erecting two barracks, each sixty two feet in length, twenty in width, and one and a half story in heighth; each barrack to be divided into four rooms,

exclusive of the half story, which should be occupied for lodging rooms. Each lower room should have a large fire place, with a closet on one side, and a stair way on the other, to ascend to the lodging rooms; and should also have two windows of twenty squares of 7 by 9 glass each. To each upper room there should be one lutheran window of twelve squares of like glass. The walls of the half story should not exceed 3-1/2 feet in heighth.

--Dearborn to Commanding Officer at Detroit, Aug. 5, 1805, quoted in *ibid.*, 173-74.

1820:

The ax, pick, saw & trowel, has become more the implement of the American soldier than the cannon, musket or sword.

--Zachary Taylor to Jesup, Sept. 18, 1820, quoted in *ibid.*, 169.

1826:

Fort St. Philip, Louisiana--The condition of the buildings at Fort St. Philip is such as not only to forbid every thing like comfort, but to endanger the lives of the troops. Measures have been adopted to erect new barracks, quarters, and hospitals at that post, and materials have been collected in part for that purpose.

--ARQMG 1826.

Fort Atkinson, Nebraska--Look at Fort Atkinson and you will see barn yards that would not disgrace a Pennsylvania farmer, herds of cattle that

would do credit to a Potomac grazier, yet where is the gain in this, either to the soldier or to the government? Ask the individual who boastingly shews you all this, why such a provision of hay and corn. His answer will be, to feed the cattle. But why so many cattle? Why--to eat the hay and corn.

--Prucha, Army Life, 5-7; all quotations from this book are the words of Inspector General George Croghan.

1827:

[Troops are expected to be able to] cover themselves comfortably wheresoever timber is to be found.

--Jesup, quoted in Risch, Quartermaster Support, 210.

Fort Crawford, Wisconsin--To erect permanent quarters with suitable defences an appropriation is necessary.

--ARQMG 1827.

Post at Petite Coquilles, Louisiana--[There are] the inconveniences of a heavy police, with old and but temporary and ill-constructed barracks, requiring frequent repairs The mess arrangements, and the condition of the barracks and bunks, though not altogether as perfect as

under more favorable circumstances they should be, were quite as good as could reasonably be expected in these wretched barracks.

--Gaines, Report of Inspection, 110.

Fort Crawford, Wisconsin--[The fort is composed of wooden blockhouses and huts] so much decayed as to be uninhabitable without extensive repairs [and even with repair they would remain unhealthy]. The floors and lower timbers are decayed in part by frequent overflowing of the river, which has left the wood soaked and filled with damp sediment. [Previous flooding has been as deep as four feet in the barracks. Police and discipline at the post are good] notwithstanding the rough, dirty, and decaying barracks, without bunks, render it impossible to keep the clothing, bedding, arms, &c, in as good order, with equal or even increased attention, as at Fort Snelling.

--Ibid., 123-25.

1828:

Quartermaster Department--The duties of the officers of this department relate principally to the movement and quartering of the troops, the purchase, preservation, and distribution of public property, the erecting of barracks, storehouses, hospitals &c., and the survey and construction of military roads.

--ARQMG 1828.

1838:

Fort Brady, Michigan--The bunks are defective in this, that the lower tier, being on the floor itself, must of course remain damp for some time after the changers have been washed out. I would remark that the chambers themselves from want of proper ventilation have in damp and warm weather a foul, unpleasant smell, which must become worse as the timbers of which the buildings are erected decay. To obviate this (in some degree at least), windows must be made on the rear of the several apartments to correspond with those in front.

--Prucha, Army Life, 46.

[The War Department] has adopted regulations to govern the engineer, quartermaster's, and ordnance departments in the construction of the buildings under their superintendence, so as to avoid all unnecessary extravagance, and at the same time secure solidity, uniformity, and durability.

--ARSecWar 1838, 105.

1839:

If it be contemplated to establish posts on the route surveyed between Forts Leavenworth and Snelling, I would recommend that the ordinary log cabins and block houses of the frontier alone be constructed, and with as little expense as practicable.

--ARQMG 1839, 114.

[The troops in the field in Florida fighting the Seminoles] have suffered less from sickness and lost fewer men by disease, since they came into Florida than while they were stationary at their posts.

--ARSurGen 1839, 147.

1840:

Prussian army barracks, Berlin, Germany--The basement contains cook and mess-rooms; furnaces, each of which heats five rooms above, and offices; the first floor and the second, lodging-rooms, with iron bedsteads; and the attic, company clothing-rooms.

--AROrdnance Department 1840, 66.

[The United States Army is] the best paid, the best fed, the best clothed, and the worst lodged army in Christendom.

--Secretary of War Poinsett, attrib.; "Barracks and Quarters," 492.

1840s:

Perfectly isolated as these outposts are . . . the soldier [must] . . . kill the hours of a tedious solitude, and beguile away the extreme loneliness of his situation.

--Francis Wyse, quoted in Kemble, Image of the Army Officer, 60.

1842:

Fort Brady, Michigan--The quarters of both officers and men are in a dilapidated condition. The floors of all of them have sunk more or less. The doors no longer swing perpendicularly on their hinges; the porticoes are rotten; in truth, nothing is as it should be save the roofing, which is sound and tight throughout.

--Prucha, Army Life, 47.

1843:

[There is an] extreme want [of barracks and hospitals at the seacoast fortifications,] cramped and most unwholesome casemates now in general use for both purposes. . . . [I]t would seem against the interest of the country and the credit of the Government, to lodge troops, with their sick . . . in such miserable places.

--ARCommanding General 1843, 64.

Madison Barracks, New York--The quarters are in good repair, and as I had a right to expect, they are clean and neat. It is but seldom indeed that neglect of proper police can be justly charged against any of our garrisons. The drill may be sometimes neglected, but police, I might almost say, never.

--Prucha, Army Life, 50.

Fort Brady, Michigan--The appearance of the post has greatly improved within the last 16 months; new floors have been laid in most of the

quarters, the porches have undergone material though perhaps not sufficient repairs . . . for truly patch as you may, the old barrack will fall to pieces from its own rottenness in a few years.

--Ibid.

1844:

Fort Washita, Oklahoma--The quarters of the men are convenient and comfortable; each company has two blocks or sets of houses, containing two rooms of 17 by 19 feet, separated by a hall or passage nine or ten feet wide. These houses are of oak logs hewn on the inside, and though built with no eye to permanency, they will nevertheless answer every purpose for some years or until the command can make bricks and provide the necessary lumber for the erection of barracks of a better and more durable description.

--Ibid., 51-52.

Fort Smith, Arkansas--The quarters of the commandant alone are in good condition. All the others, whether of officer or soldier, are rapidly approaching to dilapidation, and although at present habitable, they will in the course of a year or two tumble down. In truth, but for the pains taken to avert such calamity by the use of props and other modes of strengthening, some of them would have been down ere this. They all stand upon wooden posts two or three feet high, which rotting of course cause the superstructure to settle and in some cases to separate, as none of them are held together by girders as is the case with the house of the commandant. All the buildings are put together somewhat after the

Canadian manner, short logs let into grooved uprights and with no seeming regard to strength or durability.

--Ibid., 52.

Fort Gibson, Oklahoma--[The quarters are] sadly out of repair [and also very uncomfortable. But they are better than before, because the pickets have been cut down and windows cut into the backs of the barracks.] Pent up as they were before this change was made, the wonder is not that the men became sick but that any lived.

--Ibid., 53.

1845:

Fort Des Moines, Iowa--[The quarters, hospital, and all other buildings are built of] round unbarked logs . . . finished in the plainest manner. [But the commanding officer should not be criticized for that because] no frontier post established for a temporary purpose or for occupancy not to exceed six or seven years ought to cost more than five hundred dollars.

--Ibid.

1850:

Benicia Arsenal, California--One barrack, with bunks for soldiers, eighty feet long, thirty feet wide. [Of a total lumber bill of \$840,351 for all

buildings, \$5,000 was spent on lumber for] the manufacture of bunks, office furniture, &c.

--ARQMG 1851, 309-317.

Benicia Arsenal, California--[The lumber imported from Oregon was very rough, heavy, and hard to work. Because the materials were unavailable, plastering of interiors was deemed impractical, and] ceiling with planed boards was substituted. To prepare these rough and hard boards with the hand plane was tedious and laborious, and has added largely to the time of construction, as well as cost.

--Ibid., 304.

[Iron houses are being shipped to California] to be exposed to a trial of their fitness before others of that material be introduced into the service. [They will be used as barracks and quarters at Tulare Lake if there is no timber to be found there for the troops to build their own cover.]

--ARQMG 1850, 267.

Camp Arbuckle, Oklahoma--[All buildings are of log, hastily thrown up, with log and mud chimneys.] The men occupy a log building about twenty-five by two hundred feet, divided into about four rooms, besides the kitchen.

--Glisan, Journal of Army Life, 52.

1851:

Fort Worth, Texas--Quarters for one hundred and twenty men, built of logs and puncheons--without floors--mud and stick chimneys, with kitchen; and officers' of same construction, covered with clapboards--very temporary.

--ARQMG 1851, 270.

Fort Duncan, Texas--Six grass houses occupied by the companies, built entirely of willow poles and grass, no floors or windows.

--Ibid., 279.

1852-53:

Fort Leavenworth, Kansas--And now we were settled down in comfortable quarters for those times. A bed sack, refilled with prairie hay (Arnold called it prairie feathers) once a month, and a pair of soldier blankets, with overcoat, or anything else one could utilize for a pillow. If the Government allowance for wood was not sufficient, we took a company team, made a detail, and hauled more from above the post. . . . Cook got some barrels and had them sawed in two for bath tubs, which we could use in the dining room between supper and tattoo.

--Lowe, Five Years a Dragoon, 76-77.

1853:

[The appropriations for barracks and quarters should be increased in order to provide] better accommodations than have been provided for

[officers and men] heretofore. [Suitable housing standards have been set by the Navy and at marine barracks and arsenals, but not at very many military posts.]

--ARQMG 1853, 132.

Fort Union, New Mexico--The quarters occupied by the respective companies were in a good state of police, and the comfort of the troops studied in all the details.

--Frazer, Mansfield on Condition, 33; all quotations from this book are the words of Inspector General Joseph K. F. Mansfield.

Fort Defiance, New Mexico--The quarters of both officers and soldiers are falling to pieces. The timbers had rotted away--some of the troops were in tents. The hospital in a good state for the sick and the public store houses worthless.

--Ibid., 51.

Fort Webster, New Mexico--The quarters and buildings of the command were in a good state of police, but quite indifferent and insufficient, the post not having been completed. Major Richardson's company were in tents, and the sick were in a tent as there was no hospital. The comforts of the troops, however, both sick and well, studied and suitable corrals for the horses and public animals.

--Ibid., 53.

1854:

Presidio of San Francisco, California--The quarters of the soldiers were miserable adobe buildings, the leavings of the Mexican Government, but were kept in good police and order A temporary barrack for the soldiers has been subsequently erected by order of General Wool. A remodelling and rebuilding of this post and quarters will be necessary at a future day when they will be required for troops to man the fortifications &c &c.

--Ibid., 135.

Post at Mission of San Diego, California--The quarters of the soldiers at present are worthless: Company I occupies some miserably old adobe buildings, and Company F are in tents. . . . Captain Burton with his men is converting the old church of this mission into an excellent barrack for the soldiers, two stories high, the walls being thick and firm. But most of the other buildings . . . being merely ruins, should be leveled. . . .

--Ibid., 143-44.

Fort Miller, California--The quarters were neat and comfortable, altho' quite contracted.

--Ibid., 151.

Fort Reading, California--The quarters were in excellent order although unfinished and a little limited as to kitchens for the men.

--Ibid., 160.

Fort Humboldt, California--The troops have done a great deal of work, and put up all their quarters . . . at a small cost in purchasing materials and hiring labour so that all the quarters of this post have cost only 11,664-93/100 dollars, and the men have supplied their own wood and made a very valuable garden.

--Ibid., 163.

1856:

Fort Union, New Mexico--[All the barracks are falling down, but have worse features than collapsing roofs.] The unbarked logs afford excellent hiding places for that annoying and disgusting insect, the cimex lectularius, so common in this country, which it is by no means backward in taking advantage of, to the evident discomfort of those who occupy the buildings. [Whenever the weather allows, the men almost always sleep outdoors.]

--The post surgeon, quoted in Emmett, Fort Union, 201-02.

Fort Pierre, Dakota--Officers and men suffered alike. The miserable huts in which we lived during the winter were unfit for stables. We almost froze in them, and when the spring came, the mud roofs leaked like sieves.

I look back upon the winter passed at Fort Pierre as one of great suffering and hardship, by far the worst that I went through during my service.

--Meyers, Ten Years in the Ranks, 106-07.

Construction of Fort Lookout, Dakota--One of the first things the master-mechanic did was to erect a whipsaw for getting out flooring and roofing boards. This saw was worked by two men, one above and the other below the elevated log. It was slow, laborious work.

--Ibid., 117.

1857:

[The low quality of the Army's quarters was among the principal causes] of desertion, disease, and mortality. [The men live in casemates at the coastal fortifications, and on the frontier] either in tents (winter as well as summer) or such miserable bush and mud huts as they have hastily constructed for the moment.

--ARCommaning General 1857, 49.

Fort McHenry, Maryland, both barracks--Backs and [illegible] of fire places repaired, plastering and floors . . . repaired in places and repainted.

--J. L. Donaldson to Lieut. Col. H. Brooks, July 3, 1857, QMConFile--McHenry, Fort, RG92.

1858:

I must also again beg attention to the miserable state of the barracks or quarters at nearly all our permanent fortifications and posts. Health and efficiency as well as comfort must be sacrificed where strict attention is not given to the lodgings of men.

--ARCommanding General 1858, 762.

Fort Miller, California--Barracks for Men. [Rooms] 6. [Condition] Very bad--Rooms small. [Remarks] No ceiling to four of the rooms. No bunks to same.

--Statement of the Number and Condition of Buildings at Fort Miller, Cal. . . . op. cit., RG92.

Civil War:

Training camp barracks--To such as are not familiar with these structures, I will simply say that they were generally a one-storied building not unlike a bowling-alley in proportions, having the entrance at one end, a broad aisle running through the centre, and a double row of bunks, one above the other, on either side. They were calculated to hold one company of a hundred men.

--Billings, Hardtack and Coffee, 35-36.

[Tents are in short supply.] The French soldier uses only the shelter tent. Whenever encamped for any length of time, he is required to construct huts of small stakes, wattled with brush or straw, and thatched. The walls, for winter use, are plastered with clay mortar.

Such an encampment can be constructed by the troops in eight days, and will last, with occasional repairs, for eight years. The attempt is being made to introduce this practice among our soldiers, who, from their skill in the use of the axe, and the abundance of suitable timber, can construct huts with great facility.

Such camps are drier, better ventilated, and more healthy than tents during inclement weather.

--ARQMG 162, 73-74.

Convalescent Camp Barracks and "Contraband Quarters," Alexandria, Virginia, probably 1862--3 months time for 56 men, building barracks. Flooring dressed, tongued and grooved, and lumber for bunks dressed. 2500 Window Sashes Furnished and glazed and painted. All the roofing done.

--"Statement of Buildings, etc., erected . . ." op. cit., RG92.

British Army barracks, England--Well, each man of us here has a bed to himself, with an arm-rack behind it, and two or three pegs in the walls above to hang belts, &c., upon. The bedstead is of iron, about two and a half feet wide, and hinged in the centre, so that it can be turned back in the daytime and form a seat. To each cot there is a mattress, a pillow (both stuffed with straw, and ungrateful to the bones at first, but we soon get used to that), two blankets, two sheets, and a rug. The sheets are changed every month, the blankets every three or four months.

Shelves run round the room, which is also furnished with a cupboard, two tables, four forms, a plate and a basin for every man, a large long-handled scrubbing-brush, a broom, small hand-scrubber, a tin-pail, a wooden pail, a wooden box with handles to contain coals, with poker,

shovel, &c. The tables have moveable tops fitting upon iron stands; and the cupboard doors are of iron-wire, like those of a meat-safe. The basins are made to serve the purpose of tea-cups also: Knife, fork, and spoon, as I have said, are provided in the kit. Of course I do not know that these details are the same in all barrack-rooms; but . . . I should expect to find few differences elsewhere.

--"Life in a Barrack," 54.

Approving plans for barracks for New Hampshire Volunteers, 1863--The plan will be so modified as to limit the expense to what is absolutely indispensable for the comfort of the troops.

--Brig. Gen. E. R. S. Canby to Gen. D. H. Rucker, Dec. 22, 1863, QMConFile--Barracks, Plans for, RG92.

1865:

Construction and extension of all barracks, hospitals, and other buildings, will cease, unless authorized upon special report, which in all cases of necessity should be made immediately by telegraph.

--General Orders of the Quartermaster Department No. 24, Apr. 29, 1865, par. VII, RG92.

1866:

[It is the intention of the Quartermaster Department to offer better accommodations than in the past, to make quarters, reading rooms, and mess rooms] more attractive than the sutler's shop and the groggery.

--Meigs to William T. Sherman, July 9, 1866, quoted in Risch, Quartermaster Support, 484-85.

Sod barracks, probably Fort Sedgwick, Colorado--Dirt, dampness, disease, vermin, all infest such structures, and the United States Government, I take it, means better than that by the faithful troops that serve it.

--J. F. Rusling to Meigs, Sept. 12, 1866, quoted *ibid.*, 484.

Sod barracks, Fort Sedgwick, Colorado--Surely, had the southern planters put their negroes in such hovels, a sample would, ere this, have been carried to Boston and exhibited as illustrative of the cruelty and inhumanity of the man-masters.

William T. Sherman to Meigs, Aug. 1866, quoted in *ibid.*

1867:

Fort Cummings, New Mexico--The floors were dirt. In some rooms army blankets were fastened down with wooden pegs for carpets.

--Parker, Annals of Old Fort Cummings, 11.

1868:

It is a common remark among troops, that as soon as they make their quarters comfortable and convenient, they have to leave them. I am inclined to believe that the same results attend Frontier Posts; by the time they are made habitable and comfortable, the necessity that caused their construction has passed away,--a new line of defense is adopted, new posts are constructed at more remote points, and the old ones abandoned. Military Posts are matured villages planted in the wilderness to decline and decay as other villages of more permanent character steadily grow up around them. It would seem unwise, then, to say the least, to attempt the construction of permanent buildings, whose stone walls and chimnies a few years hence will serve as monuments to mark the waste of money, as those of Forts Phantom Hill and Belknap now do.

--E. J. Strong, Quartermaster General of the Department of Texas, quoted in Haley, Fort Concho, 132.

Camp Emory, Georgia--The quarters for the Cavalry are wooden boxes, floored raised six inches above the ground, roofed with "A" tents. Average occupancy of each--six men. Each tent or box is furnished with three double bunks and has suitable racks for carbines and sabres; also, has a brick fire place, hearth and chimney.

--Report on Living Conditions at Posts in the South, RG112.

1869:

[The Army occupies 5,137 buildings of all types.] Many of them, probably most of them, are of very rude construction

--ARQMG 1869, 222-23.

1870:

The most important structures at a post, in a hygienic point of view, are the barracks proper, or soldiers' quarters, the guard-house, including the prison-rooms or cells, and the hospital; and the object to be kept in view in their construction is to furnish shelter without diminishing that supply of pure air and light which is necessary to health.

--Billings, Report on Barracks and Hospitals, vi.

[Mortality from disease (excluding epidemics) is 50 percent higher than it need be in the Army, caused by things that could be avoided. Chief among them is the] bad sanitary condition of barracks. It has been said that we have the best-fed and the worst-housed Army in the world, and the statement seems more nearly correct than such generalizations usually are.

--Ibid., xxxii.

Fort Buford, Dakota--[Conditions in the barracks are generally bad; they are dim, have little ventilation or light, and lack bathing facilities.] Steam and effluvia [pass from the kitchen to the quarters, making them] very disagreeable. The fact that there is no store or lumber-room

connected with the barracks is made evident by the accumulation of sundry articles in the kitchens, mess-rooms, and sleeping rooms, to the great detriment of the good order and neatness of the quarters.

--Ibid., 402.

Fort Larned Kansas [Making barracks too wide is a common error. Fort Larned is an especially bad example, with] dormitories 40 feet square and 10 feet high; it is almost impossible to ventilate them properly.

--Ibid., xvi.

Fort Wallace, Kansas--The cheerlessness of these accommodations is mitigated by a rigid system of cleanliness and white-washing.

Ibid., 310.

Fort Washington, Maryland--[Both barracks are overcrowded, and] fitted with iron bedsteads, double lockers, and gun-racks. The kitchens in both barracks are well furnished, have large and very fine cooking stoves, and well selected mess furniture; they are now artificially lighted by candles, and heated by coal stoves, burning anthracite coal; there is no provision for bath-room or reading room in either.

--Ibid., 70.

Fort Concho, Texas--[The barracks are one-story, with dormitory, mess hall, and kitchen, and] an attempt has been made to floor them with concrete, but with little success.

--Post surgeon, quoted in Spaulding, United States Army in War and Peace, 344.

Fort Davis, Texas--B. Co. . . . Quarters neat, except no uniform arrangement of clothing or knapsacks. C. Co. . . . Quarters, Neat and more orderly. K. Co. . . . Quarters--floor cleaner, Barracks very disorderly. Bedding & clothing carelessly folded and much clothing thrown unfolded on the bunks.

--Medical History of Fort Davis, Jan. 5, 1870.

Fort Davis, Texas--B. Co. . . . Quarters neat and orderly, except the window sills very dusty, and no regular or uniform arrangement of Knapsacks. C. Co. . . . Quarters much improved, mean neat & orderly. K. Co. . . . Quarters, better, but not so neat as the others, unblacked boots & shoes, and rubbish of various kinds thrown under the bunks. Window sill very dusty. There is in all the Quarters a want of system of arranging the boxes. Many of them being placed in the middle of the floors and used to sit on. I would suggest that several benches be provided for each Barrack.

--Ibid., Jan. 7, 1870.

Fort Davis, Texas--The quarters of the two Cavalry companies are very disorderly-floor not swept-bunks not arranged, and clothing of all kinds promiscuously thrown about. The absence of so many men from the

barracks is not considered sufficient reason for their disorderly condition.

--Post surgeon's inspection report, Jan. 13, 1870, Records of the United States Army Commands, Fort Davis, Texas, Selected Documents, 1867-1889, RG98, NA Microfilm NMRA 66-783 (7675)6.

1871:

The appropriation for barracks and quarters has not been sufficient to shelter the Army in a manner essential to its comfort and health, and hence it is earnestly desired that the appropriation asked for that purpose may not be reduced.

--ARSecWar 1871, 9.

1872:

Fort Davis, Texas--But two of the Barracks . . . are completed. Nor are they really finished. They were plastered inside, but very badly, and the greater part of the plastering has long since fallen off, and no attempts made to repair the walls. The barracks are very untidy, dirty, and disorderly. They have earth floors, which, by want of proper attention, are very dusty--and soil all articles of clothing in the barracks. The mess rooms and kitchens are not plastered--have earth floors--and are equally as dirty and untidy as the barracks. Nor is the Police as well attended to as formerly. The troops are now supplied with single iron Bunks, and bedsacks filled with hay and blankets, but their

beds are never tidy, or orderly. [The barracks are also severely overcrowded.]

--Medical History of Fort Davis, May 1872.

Newport Barracks, Kentucky--The last two days of our stay, we were kept shut up in our "quarters"--a big room on the third floor. The room was literally packed with recruits. The old "double decker" bunks--four men occupying each bunk--stood thickly along each side of the room.

--Cox, Five Years in the United States Army, 12-13.

1874:

Fort Stevenson, Dakota--[Six years after their construction, the barracks still] lack ceiling and sheeting [and the cottonwood floors are worn out and rotten.]

--Mattison, "Old Fort Stevenson," 30-31.

1876:

[Regarding dirt floors,] it is a little unpleasant at first to be smothered with dust every time you walk across the room or whenever the door is opened

--Soldier's letter, quoted in Rickey, Forty Miles a Day, 95n.

1879:

Fort Stevenson, Dakota--The partitions in both wings [of the barracks] are inch pine plank, white-washed.

--Inspection report, quoted in Mattison, "Old Fort Stevenson," 34.

1880-81:

[On the question of whether an entire company should be housed in one large room or several smaller ones, opinion is divided.] The English, who have tried both systems, have finally settled on a sleeping-room of twenty-four beds as the best of their organization. [American enlisted men, when asked, all prefer the smaller rooms.]

--Anderson, "Army Posts, Barracks, and Quarters," 431-33.

Our Engineer Department will not, so far as can now be foreseen, recommend to the Secretary of War, that any attempt be made to provide quarters for the occupation in time of peace, of the garrisons of permanent works of defense yet to be erected, when there is room for such quarters on the exterior.

Casemates are now called war quarters by the engineers, and their use in time of peace as quarters for either officers or men, will doubtless be given up as soon as it can be done.

--Ibid., 446.

1886:

[Requests of post commanders for insect exterminators are denied, because the government cannot] afford to pay the expense of a bed bug war.

--Quoted in Foner, United States Soldier Between Wars, 18.

1939-42 (but timeless):

Nobody today realizes what a big part of the army life bedbugs played. . . . The big problem was the bedbugs at night. . . . You always had blood on your chest. . . . After a while you got used to the fact that you had somebody else in bed with you. You just brushed them off and went back to sleep. We knew we had to live with them.

--Joseph R. Blaise, interview with the author, Oct. 30, 1981.

Bunks and Arm Racks

1820:

Cantonment Missouri, Nebraska--The construction of the bunks in the Rifle Regiment does not appear to be calculated for the enforcing of a rigid police on account of the vacancy next the floor.

--Officer of the 6th Infantry, quoted in Johnson, "Cantonment Missouri, 126.

1826:

[To] the same expression, different readings will be given, however correctly and precisely they may be worded. To obviate all this and to insure exact uniformity it is necessary that correct drawings of both bunks and arms racks, exhibiting their forms, position with relation to the chamber, mode of numbering, etc., be furnished to each post.

--Croghan, quoted in Kummerow and Brown, Enlisted Barracks at Fort Snelling, 12.

1829:

Fort Wood, Louisiana--The form of the bunks is not perhaps in conformity with that prescribed by regulation, and is certainly not suited to this locality and climate, which would cause use to separate rather than crowd sleepers together. The widest bunks that I have seen hitherto are less than three feet wide, but these are at least five feet and of three tiers in height, and each tier calculated to lodge three instead of two persons, as usual.

--Prucha, Army Life, 44.

1831:

Fort Howard, Wisconsin--Bunks and arm racks. Neither were ever in conformity with regulation, and they are now after 8 or 10 years' service (as may be supposed) crazy things indeed.

--Ibid., 45.

1838:

Fort Winnebago, Wisconsin--Bunks in bad condition and irreparable. The very circumstance which induced their being built as they are, with timber far beyond the usual size, has contributed to their present craziness, for although size may give strength, it at the same time affords, as in this instance, greater surface for the growth of this pest of the country--the bed bugs, which by compelling an almost constant overhauling of both bunk and furniture necessarily hastens the destruction of both.

--Ibid., 46.

Fort Brady, Michigan--The bunks are defective in this, that the lower tier, being on the floor itself, must of course remain damp for some time after the chambers have been washed out.

--Ibid.

1840:

The quarters for the men ought, likewise, to be built of durable materials, and be permanently furnished with single iron bedsteads, in lieu of the double and treble wooden bunks now in use. This change, for obvious reasons, should be introduced into all the barracks in the United States

--ARSecWar 1840, 19-20.

1842:

Fort Crawford, Wisconsin--Bunks and arm racks. Both were so well made and of such durable materials under the searching eye of Brigadier General [Zachary] Taylor when the barracks were being built [1829] that they are very nearly as good and serviceable as they were in the first instance, when I reported them to be in exact conformity with regulation. Complaints are made of their bulkiness and the difficulty of taking them apart as often as could be wished to rid them of the bugs which are frequently very troublesome, but this inconvenience must remain and without remedy, so long as we have wooden bunks, for they can not be made more portable and answer at the same time for the accommodation of four men each.

--Ibid., 48.

1843:

Madison Barracks, New York--The bunks are all old and not of the same pattern throughout; some have the rack or stand attached, others are without them, the arms being placed in a rack made apart and fastened to the wall. Though old and a little crazy, they may be made to answer for some years to come. The chief objection to an old bunk is that when once infected by bugs, it can not be rid of them without great inconvenience and trouble, for if it be taken down with a view to a thorough examination, the chances are that it can not be put together again.

--Ibid., 50.

1844:

I cannot omit the opportunity to recommend to Congress to authorize the substitution of the single iron for the double wooden bedstead . . . [which] would add to the comfort, health, and cleanliness of the soldier

--ARSecWar 1844, 115.

Fort Towson, Oklahoma--There are but few bunks at the post, and such as there are are worth nothing. The men, to avoid the bed bugs, which are in countless numbers, sleep either upon the galleries or the floor of their quarters. Captain [Charles O.] Collins will in the course of the summer furnish all the quarters with new bunks, so constructed as to be easily taken down, an essential quality where they require to be so frequently overhauled. The arms racks are but little better than the bunks and improperly made as well as badly arranged. They too will be attended to by the assistant quartermaster in due season.

--Ibid., 51.

1848:

New York Harbor--A requisition has been made on me for bunks for one Comp'y. 1st Arty, and another will shortly be made for two more comp'ys soon expected in this harbor. As I have found by long experience that wooden bunks, however made, are not durable, and that they soon become, even with the best police, a harbor for vermin, I take this opportunity to recommend a change, feeling confident that it will lead to economy, & that it will contribute greatly to the comfort of the soldier. This change is, to substitute iron bunks for those of wood. I have had inquiries made as to the probable expense of the former. About \$50- is set down as the cost. Once made, they can hardly fail to last many

years. Indeed, it would seem that they could not be worn out. As it will be necessary to make some provision for these Comp'ys shortly, I respectfully ask an early reply. Enclosed is a plan of the proposed bunks.

--Henry Whiting to Jesup, Oct. 23, 1848, QMConFile--Bunks, RG92.

1850:

Benicia Arsenal, California--One barrack, with bunks for soldiers, eighty feet long, thirty feet wide. [Of \$840,351 spent on lumber from Oregon in fiscal 1850, \$5,000 went for lumber for] the manufacture of bunks, office furniture, &c.

--ARQMG 1851, 309-317.

Camp Arbuckle, Oklahoma--The men occupy a long building about twenty-five by two hundred feet, divided into about four rooms, besides the kitchen. They sleep on rude bunks, made of split logs and clapboards, placed two and a half feet from the floor.

--Glisan, Journal of Army Life, 52.

1851:

[In discussing improvements he is making in "the bed," including modifications to keep dirt and gravel from accumulating in the posts and make them easier to clean out,] We are also getting up the Bed in a

light Pattern of Malleable Iron, which will not be too heavy, which when completed we shall be happy to send you a sample.

--Samuel Whitemarsh of New York to Maj. G. H. Crossman, Mar. 11, 1851, QMConFile--Bed (iron), RG92.

1854:

Musicians' Training Barrack, Governors Island, New York--I found myself in a room with two windows that overlooked the parade ground and one facing inward towards the interior of South Battery. There were six iron double bedsteads in the room and a single bedstead for the corporal in a corner next to a window. The double bedsteads were made so that one-half could be folded up over the other half when not in use. This in a measure relieved during the day the very crowded condition at night when all the beds were down.

--Meyers, Ten Years in The Ranks, 2; cf. Ostrander's 1864 description of the same room below.

On the 10th of October last I addressed a letter to the Hon. Secretary of War, recommending the adoption of single iron bunks for the Army. His endorsement thereon is respectfully furnished for your information, it being as follows:

The proposed change from double wooden bunks to single iron bunks, is approved and will be carried into effect by supplying the iron bunks to the recruiting depots and to new permanent posts which may be established, and substituting them from time to time

for such wooden bunks as may become unserviceable at existing posts. Jefferson Davis, Secretary of War. [Oct. 23, 1854]

--Adjutant General S. Cooper to Jesup, Nov. 27, 1854, QMConFile--Bed (iron), RG92.

1854-55:

Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania--The rooms were large enough not to be crowded; but the bunks were the old-fashioned two-tier kind. Two men slept in each of the lower and upper bunks, and it was uncomfortable.

--Meyers, Ten Years in the Ranks, 36.

1856:

I have received your instructions to report upon the fitness of a portable camp Bedstead, made by F. T. Foster of this city [Philadelphia], for Army purposes.

Mr. Foster has shewn me his Bedstead, which he claims is his own invention. This is a mistake, as I have seen the same article before, in use in Mexico, where they are common.

It is a good and convenient article for an Officer on campaign, or for travellers on the Western plains; being very portable & weighing only about 21 lbs. Its cost is about \$3.75/100.

This Bedstead, or portable Cot, is not at all adapted for use of troops in barracks or for general Army purposes.

--Maj. G. H. Crossman to Jesup, Jan. 10, 1858, QMConFile--Bed (iron), RG92.

1858:

Johns Bunk--[A board of officers] are of the opinion that it is superior to any other known to them and recommend its adoption both on account of its lightness, cheapness and durability.

--Report of a Board of Officers . . . March 31, 1858, QMConFile--Bunks, RG92.

Johns Bunk--The Bunk is simple in its structure and will probably answer the purpose, it will if it be properly taken care of by the Troops.

--Col. C. W. Thoms to Jesup, Nov. 1, 1858, QMConFile--Bunks, RG92.

The cost of equipage is also increased by the adoption of the iron bedstead, which is preferred by the troops because it is more easily kept clean than the wooden bunk formerly in use.

--ARQMG 1858, 797.

1864:

The men slept on platforms twelve feet wide, which ran along each side of the long barracks, and accommodated twenty-five men in a row.

--Quoted in Matthews and Wecter, Our Soldiers Speak, 154-55.

Civil War:

Log Huts of winter quarters--In entering a door at the end one would usually observe two bunks across the opposite end, one near the ground (or floor, when there was such a luxury, which was rarely), and the other well up towards the top of the walls. I say, usually. It depended upon circumstances. When two men only occupied the hut there was one bunk. Sometimes when four occupied it there was but one, and that one running lengthwise. There are other exceptions which I need not mention; but the average hut contained two bunks.

The construction of these bunks was varied in Character. Some were built of boards from hardtack boxes; some men improvised a spring-bed of slender saplings, and padded them with a cushion of hay, oak or pine leaves; others obtained coarse grain sacks from an artillery or cavalry camp, or from some wagon train, and by making a hammock-like arrangement of them thus devised to make repose a little sweeter.

--Billings, Hardtack and Coffee, 69-70.

[There was] an unnecessary waste of life in our late war, [caused chiefly by] want of a suitable bed. Frequently there is nothing but some brush,

and pieces of board saved from cracker-boxes and barrel-heads between the sleeper, his blanket, and the mud or frozen earth.

--Locke, Three Years in Camp and Hospital, 75.

1864:

Musicians' Training Barrack, Governors Island, New York--I found myself in a room with two windows that overlooked the parade ground, one facing toward the interior of South Battery. There were seven iron double bedsteads in the room, the corporal's being in a corner next to a window.

These double bedsteads were so made that one half could be folded up over the other half when not in use. This, in a measure, relieved during the day the very crowded conditions at night when all the beds were down. . . . The corporal [who was Ostrander's bunk-mate] showed me how to take down and fold up the iron bedstead and how to unroll and roll the bed, which consisted of a bedsack stuffed with straw, and the blankets.

--Ostrander, Army Boy, 14-15; cf. Meyers account (published 10 years before Ostrander's) of the same room in 1854, above.

1865-66:

Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania--The room where I was located was in the second story of the barracks which formed the northern side of the

quadrangle, and contained eight double bunks, each holding four men, that is to say, two in the lower tier and two in the upper.

--McConnell, Five Years a Cavalryman, 12.

[One enlisted man begged that] provision be made for the men to sleep singly and alone and not keep up the present barbarous and unhealthy system of having the men sleep in couples summer and winter.

--Date uncertain, probably late 1860s, quoted in Foner, United States Soldier Between Wars, 18.

1867:

Fort Harker, Kansas--This [two-man bunks in two tiers], as is well known (aside from any immoral tendency) is a most objectionable form of bed.

--Post surgeon, quoted in Ebel, "Soldier-Doctors," 26.

Fort Cummings, New Mexico--The legs of the bedsteads were in good sized tins containing water to prevent large red ants from crawling upon the beds.

--Parker, Annals of Old Fort Cummings, 11; this possibly refers only to officers' quarters.

Wallen bedstead--[A board of officers] find that it is constructed of wrought iron, and put together in a manner to insure strength and durability. It is 6 ft. 3 in. long in the clear, and 6 ft. 4 in. long outside, 30 inches high, at the head board, and 14 inches high generally, 2 ft 3 in wide in the clear, and it weighs about 80 pounds, which can be furnished at 15¢ per pound, perhaps less. The bunk is made to fold up so as to greatly economize space in the barracks, and a comfortable shiny seat is formed by a piece of board that comes up as it is folded. The knapsacks, belts, muskets, and mosquito bar are supported on the shelf and projections. It contains a box or locker for cleaning utensils & surplus clothing &c, this box can be unlocked and opened on either side.

The Board is of the opinion that where barracks afford sufficient space to allow each man room enough to sleep without others above or below him, that Genl Wallen's bedstead would meet the wants of the service most excellently and they recommend its adoption by the Government, in the most earnest manner, but not to the exclusion of other bedsteads possessing superior merits with which they however have no way of making a comparison, as they are confined in the action to the one presented to them.

--Proceedings of a Board convened for the purpose of examining and reporting upon an iron bedstead invented by Bvt Brig Genl H. D. Wallen, Dec. 1867, QMConFile--Bunks, RG92.

1868:

Jack Bunk--It is the best bunk that I have seen used in the Army. It consists of three pieces--The upper & lower "Jacks" are of wrought iron--the upper one having an iron head-board attached to it. The bottom of substantial slats battened and well screwed together. I

consider these bunks exceedingly serviceable and worth more than the price paid for them. [They should be furnished all recruiting depots.]

--Endorsement Feb. 6, 1868, of H. D. Wallen, commanding depot at David's Island, New York: one of many on Lieut. Frederick Fuger to Rufus Ingalls, Nov. 20, 1867, QMConFile--Bunks, RG92; 600 of these had been placed at David's.

1869:

Barrack bunk? and Miller or Jack bunk?--[In compliance with your letter of 12 Oct. I have completed and forwarded a "Pattern Bedstead" in accordance with the sketch recieved. Along with it I send for inspection] a folding Iron Bedstead recently gotten up in this city [Philadelphia], which surpasses, in my opinion, anything of the kind now extant.

--Ingalls to Meigs, Nov. 5, 1869, QMConFile--Bunks, RG92.

In your order for stores for Fort Riley dated July 27, 1869, two hundred fifty (250) Iron Bedsteads two story or double, are called for. There are none to be found in this city [St. Louis] ready made, but I can have them made according to the enclosed plan and specifications for fifteen dollars (\$15) each. As the cost is so much greater than for single iron bedsteads, which can be purchased from the Medical Department for fifty cents each, I do not feel authorized to order the two story bedsteads to be made without further authority. Please instruct me what to do in the matter.

--C. W. Thomas to D. H. Rucker, Sept. 10, 1869, QMConFile--Bunks RG92.

1870:

An evil which should be put an end to with the least possible delay, is the use of the double bunk, usually aggravated by placing it in two tiers, and even, as at Fort Buford, in three. These bunks are used in ninety-three, or over one-half, of our posts. It is certainly time that the use of such bunks should be absolutely and imperatively forbidden, and so long as they are allowed to exist in dormitories, so long it is useless to hope that these rooms can be made what they should be. No one acquainted with the first principles of sanitary science will approve of their use. They have long been discontinued in the service of European armies. . . .

The only possible argument in favor of their retention is that they enable more men to be packed in a given space, and that they cost a little less than single bedsteads; neither being worthy of consideration, in view of the evils to which these relics of barbarism give rise, and for which the supposed necessity for their use is now considered as a sufficient apology.

--Billings, Report on Barracks and Hospitals, xvi.

Department of Arizona--The bunks are built of cottonwood saplings, with slats of old packing boxes or stout willow branches. With few exceptions they are arranged in two tiers, like the berths of a ship.

--Ibid., 456.

Post at Baton Rouge, Louisiana--[The barracks are] fitted up with double bunks.

--Ibid., 173.

Fort Bayard, New Mexico--[The barracks are] fitted with double bunks in two tiers.

--Ibid., 241.

Fort Benton, Montana--The bunks are double, and two storied.

--Ibid., 405.

Camp Bowie, Arizona--It has no other furniture than the rough bunks constructed of poles, cut in the ravines near the post.

--Ibid., 471.

Fort Brady, Michigan--In addition to the other defects the men are supplied with double bunks 4-1/2 by 6-1/2 feet, two tiers high, and designed to accommodate four men each. These occupy so much of the interior that the men have but little space in which to perform their ordinary duties and have comfortable places to rest.

--Ibid., 128.

Fort Bridger, Wyoming--The bunks are arranged in two tiers.

--Ibid., 361.

Fort Brown, Texas--[The barracks are each] fitted up with a sufficient number of single, two-tier wooden bunks, ranged down both sides of the room.

--Ibid., 208.

Fort Buford, Dakota--The bunks are badly arranged in three tiers one above the other, each bunk holding two men.

--Ibid., 402.

Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania--Double wooden bunks, two stories high, accommodating two men each

--Ibid., 60.

Post at Charleston, South Carolina--The dormitories are fitted up with double bunks, in two tiers.

--Ibid., 141.

Fort Clark, Texas--Bedsteads are arranged in tiers, each 6-3/12 by 2-10/12 feet. There is a gun rack at one end and two shelves at the other, near the wall. These beds are placed at right angles to the walls, or across the barrack, in two rows.

--Ibid., 220.

Camp Colorado, Arizona--Their only furnishings are crudely built bunks raised a foot or more from the ground.

--Ibid., 471.

Camp Crittenden, Arizona--The bunks are well raised and solidly built, each accommodating two men.

--Ibid., 473-74.

Fort Cummings, New Mexico--They are supplied with double bunks.

--Ibid., 239.

Fort D. A. Russell, Wyoming--The beds . . . are arranged in two-story wooden bunks, each story holding two men.

--Ibid., 239.

Fort Dodge, Kansas--The beds . . . are arranged in two-story wooden bunks, each story holding two men.

--Ibid., 302.

Fort Ellis, Montana--The dormitories contain a double tier of bunks

--Ibid., 407.

Fort Fetterman, Wyoming--They are fitted up with double bunks in two tiers.

--Ibid., 351.

Fort Fred Steele, Wyoming--Double bunks are used

--Ibid., 358.

Fort Garland, Colorado--Double wooden bunks are furnished with the usual bedding.

--Ibid., 354.

Camp Gaston, California--[One barrack has] thirty-eight double bunks in two tiers [Another contains] in all forty-eight double bunks in two tiers, with accommodation for ninety-six men.

--Ibid., 449.

Fort Gibson, Oklahoma--There are fourteen double bunks to accommodate 56 men

Ibid., 268.

Camp Grant, Arizona--The bunks are rudely constructed, but single and well-raised from the ground.

--Ibid., 466.

Fort Gratiot, Michigan--In the main building, the men are furnished with old-fashioned bunks, with two tiers of beds, each to accommodate two men. These bunks are about 4-1/2 feet wide and 6-1/2 feet long and are occupied by four persons, and are placed so closely together as to allow room barely to get between them.

--Ibid., 122.

Fort Griffin, Texas--The beds consist of single wooden bunks.

--Ibid., 195.

Fort Harker, Kansas--The bunks, which are similar in all the dormitories, are double and two-tiered. This, as is well known (aside from any immoral tendency), is a most objectionable form of bed. All barracks should be constructed so as to give a sufficient area of floor to allow a separate bed to each man placed in it.

--Ibid., 249.

Fort Hays, Kansas--The beds are double-tier wooden bunks, two men sleeping together in each tier, four men in each bunk. There is a drawer for each occupant under the lower berth, and an arm-rack and shelf at the foot of the bunk, the whole arrangement being very objectionable.

--Ibid., 306.

Jackson Barracks, Louisiana--The dormitories are fitted up with double bunks in two tiers; but it is believed that the upper tier is generally unoccupied, and no ill effects are known to have arisen from want of air space.

--Ibid., 162.

Fort Jackson, Louisiana--Double bunks in two tiers are used.

--Ibid., 170.

Fort Johnston, North Carolina--Double bunks are arranged in rows on each side of the room, three feet apart, with a passageway in the center of the room, 8-1/2 feet wide.

--Ibid., 92.

Fort Klamath, Oregon--Double wooden bunks in two tiers are used.

--Ibid., 433.

Fort Lapwai, Idaho--[The rooms] each contain seven bunks for the accommodation of 28 men.

--Ibid., 424.

Fort Laramie, Wyoming--The barracks are all furnished with two tiers of movable bunks, constructed of rough white pine lumber, two men occupying each bunk when the companies are at the maximum.

--Ibid., 347.

Post at Little Rock, Arkansas--Each one is supplied with a sufficient number of neatly painted two-storied bunks; the majority of them are single bunks, a few being double.

--Ibid., 274.

Fort Lyon, Colorado--The bunks in two tiers and double, accommodate four men each.

--Ibid., 314.

Fort Macon, North Carolina--The men sleep in wooden bunks each holding four persons.

--Ibid., 88.

Fort Mackinac, Michigan--The dormitories are fitted with two-story double bunks

--Ibid., 133.

Camp McDermitt, Nevada--The bunks are double in two tiers.

--Ibid., 453.

Fort McHenry, Maryland--[In the barracks inside the fort,] at present wooden two-story bunks are furnished these quarters, and are alike detrimental to morality, cleanliness and comfort; four men sleep in each of these bunks.

--Ibid., 64.

McPherson Barracks, Georgia--Both iron and wooden single bunks, are provided.

--Ibid., 146.

Fort McRae, New Mexico--They are furnished with double bunks, with an interval of 2 feet 10 inches between the beds.

--Ibid., 242.

Camp Mojave, Arizona--Single bunks are used.

--Ibid., 467.

Omaha Barracks, Nebraska--Two tiers of double wooden bunks are used.

--Ibid., 329.

Post at Mobile, Alabama--Bunks are of wood, measure 6 feet by 27 inches and are single.

--Ibid., 160.

Fort Pike, Louisiana--The men sleep in single, two story bunks furnished with . . . mosquito bars.

--Ibid., 167.

Plattsburgh Barracks, New York--Each bunk is arranged for two men.

--Ibid., 53.

Post at Point San Jose, California--The barrack is furnished with a double row of bunks, two tiers high

--Ibid., 95.

Camp Reynolds, California--They are furnished with double bunks, two tiers high.

--Ibid., 440.

Fort Reynolds, Colorado--Wooden double bunks arranged in tiers are used.

--Ibid., 317.

Fort Rice, North Dakota--The bunks are two tiers high and sufficient in number to accommodate fifty men in each dormitory.

--Ibid., 391.

Fort Richardson, Texas--The beds are wooden bunks, 4 feet wide and 6-1/2 feet long, each holding four men, two above and two below.

--Ibid., 183.

Post at San Antonio, Texas--The bunks are of wood, double in two tiers

--Ibid., 183.

Fort Sanders, Wyoming--Ordinary double wooden bunks in one and two tiers, are used.

--Ibid., 354.

Quarters at Santa Fe, New Mexico--Double bunks are furnished

--Ibid., 257.

Fort Selden, New Mexico--The bunks are double in two tiers.

--Ibid., 237.

Fort Sill, Oklahoma--In the one building now occupied bunks are in two tiers, each for the accommodation of four persons.

--Ibid., 265.

Fort Stanton, New Mexico--The squad rooms . . . are furnished with double bunks in single tiers.

--Ibid., 248.

Fort Stevens, Oregon--The bunks are wooden, in two tiers.

--Ibid., 431.

Fort Stevenson, Dakota--There are in each dormitory ten new, neatly furnished, two-tier double bunks, capable of accommodating eight men each, or eighty in all.

--Ibid., 398.

Fort Stockton, Texas--The men sleep on . . . wooden bunks, two men each; the bunks are of old lumber, and, having been made by the men, are of rough workmanship.

--Ibid., 225.

Fort Sully, Dakota--The dormitories are fitted with rough wooden double bunks in two tiers.

--Ibid., 389.

Taylor Barracks, Kentucky--The bunks are of wood, each frame making four berths, two above and two below. All cracks, nail-holes, etc., are closed by putty to exclude bugs, but the success is small, the walls, roof, and ceilings of the buildings being full of them.

--Ibid., 139.

Fort Totten, Dakota--The bunks are of wood, painted; each accommodates two men.

--Ibid., 384.

Fort Vancouver, Washington--[The east barrack is] furnished with double bunks.

--Ibid., 421.

Camp Verde, Arizona--The only fixtures or furniture, is a double line of bunks, two tiers high, each 4 feet wide, and accommodating four men.

--Ibid., 469.

Fort Wadsworth, Dakota--Single wooden bunks are used, furnished with the usual bedding.

--Ibid., 378.

Fort Wallace, Kansas--Each dormitory contains forty double bunks in two tiers, intended for eighty men.

--Ibid., 310.

Camp Warner, Oregon--The bunks are double, in two tiers.

--Ibid., 434.

Camp Wright, California--The men's bunks are double, and in two tiers.

--Ibid., 453.

Alcatraz Island, California--[There are two barracks for the troops, both of wood, floored, ceiled, plastered, and whitewashed. In one "the beds" are in four rows, with two aisles between them. In the other 20 single

iron bedsteads are arranged in two rows with an aisle between] and overhead a gallery with twelve beds.

--Ibid., 439.

Fort Craig, New Mexico--Single iron bedsteads are used.

--Ibid., 245.

Fort Foote, Maryland--Iron bedsteads, similar to those used in the Hospital Department, are furnished

--Ibid., 68.

Fort Hamilton, New York--The majority of the enlisted men sleep on bedsteads composed of board slats, an inch thick, supported by iron trestles, and better adapted for the purpose than anything else in use.

--Ibid., 35.

Fort Independence, Massachusetts--The bunks are each composed of two iron trestles, connected by slats; each bunk is intended for one man.

--Ibid., 16.

Jefferson Barracks, Missouri--The men sleep on bedsteads made of iron, with longitudinal wooden slats.

--Ibid., 279.

Fort Jefferson, Florida--The men have iron bedsteads

--Ibid., 154.

Post at Key West, Florida--The dormitories are furnished with single iron bedsteads for one company, the remainder

--Ibid., 152.

Madison Barracks, New York--Each man has an iron bedstead, of the hospital pattern, to himself

--Ibid., 99.

Fort McKavett, Texas--Each man is furnished with an iron bedstead.

--Ibid., 204.

Fort McHenry, Maryland--[In the barracks outside the fort.] In these rooms iron bedsteads are used, which contribute greatly to the comfort of the men and neatness of the barracks.

--Ibid., 64.

McPherson Barracks, Georgia--Both iron and wooden single bunks, are provided.

--Ibid., 146.

Fort Monroe, Virginia--The bunks used in the company quarters are similar to those which were made for the Hospital Department during the war, being iron frames with wooden slats. The bunks are furnished two to three men.

--Ibid., 75.

Fort Niagara, New York--The bunks are iron bedsteads.

--Ibid., 111.

Fort Preble, Maine--The beds are low single bunks, formed of boards on movable iron supports.

--Ibid., 15.

Fort San Carlos de Barrancas, Florida--[The bunks are] combined iron and wooden single bedsteads, furnished with blankets and mosquito bars, and the bedsacks filled with straw.

--Ibid., 156.

Presidio of San Francisco, California--The quarters occupied by these troops are fitted up with iron bedsteads

--Ibid., 445.

Fort Schuyler, New York--They are fitted up with single bunks, consisting of iron head and foot supports, with a wooden bottom.

--Ibid., 41.

Fort Union, New Mexico--[There are 21] movable iron bunks [in each barrack room.]

--Ibid., 260.

Fort Warren, Massachusetts--The beds are single iron bunks

--Ibid., 70.

Fort Wayne, Michigan--The quarters occupied by Battery G, Fourth Artillery, are furnished with iron bedsteads.

--Ibid., 115.

Post on Yerba Buena Island, California--They are furnished with iron bedsteads.

--Ibid., 446.

1871:

Many years since it was ordered by the War Department that the wooden bunks, used in barracks, difficult to keep clean and affording harbor for vermin, should be replaced by single iron bunks. The war interfered with the provision of such bunks, very necessary to health and morale of troops, and the work is now in progress. The estimates submitted for the next year contemplate the completion of this work.

The service to which these iron besteads are exposed in barracks is severe, and several patterns heretofore in use have failed in actual service.

Two patterns are now manufactured, which are believed to be well fitted for use. They have been tried at several posts, and thus far always with favorable results. One is made of bar-iron, the other of gas-pipe; both have wooden slats to support the bed, and are easily taken apart for transportation. Both are so arranged that in the daytime they can be piled three tiers high without disturbing the bedding, but when in use at

night they are all put upon the floor, and no soldier will be obliged to sleep over his comrade's bed.

--ARQMG 1871, 127.

Miller bunk--Being the inventor of this Bunk I have furnished the QM Department 1600 of the same, and I believe there has never been any repairs required to them since they were made, and are pronounced to be the best article furnished for the purpose intended.

--M. C. Miller to Meigs Oct. 17, 1871, QMConFile--Bunks, RG92.

1872:

Barrack bunk manufactured by Snead--I would state, for the information of the Quartermaster General, that the Bunks delivered under this contract are of good quality and give entire satisfaction.

--James A. Ekin to Quartermaster General, June 11, 1872, QMConFile--Bunks, RG92.

They give each soldier a separate and distinct bed, and conduce both to comfort and health, and are a great improvement upon the rough wooden two-story bunks heretofore in general use at military posts. The contract for the ensuing year has been awarded to the Composite Iron Company, their bunk being the best. The price is \$5, which is the same as last year's price for this bunk.

--ARQMG 1872, 142.

Fort Davis, Texas--The troops are now supplied with single iron Bunks, and bedsacks filled with hay and blankets, but their beds are never tidy, or orderly.

--Medical History of Fort Davis, May 1872; probably the Barrack bunk.

Newport Barracks, Kentucky--The last two days of our stay, we were kept shut up in our "quarters"--a big room on the third floor. The room was literally packed with recruits. The old "double decker" bunks--four men occupying each bunk--stood thickly along each side of the room.

--Cox, Five Years in the United States Army, 12-13.

Composite bunk--[After fiscal 1873 contract awarded, proposing design changes--substituting a new chill in place of the shield on the head and foot trestles, and omitting the four short corner rods in the ends.] The Bunk is equally strong in every respect and will enable us to make and furnish them without a loss to ourselves and be a savings to the government [The request was swiftly denied.]

--Irah Chase, Vice President, Composite Iron Works Company, to Meigs, Oct. 7, 1872, and Meigs to Chase, Oct. 10, 1872, QMConFile--Bunks, RG92.

1874:

Coyle bunk--[After the Fiscal 1875 contract had been awarded to Composite, Coyle proposed to furnish his model at a lower price, upon which Meigs said,] I think that the contract has been properly awarded. But this bunk is so much lighter, and . . . so much cheaper, that it

deserves a trial to determine its capacity to bear the rough usage of the Barrack. [Recommended that 200 be purchased for trials; the Secretary of War approved Sept. 14]

--Meigs to Secretary of War, Sept. 9, 1874, and endorsements, QMConFile--Bunks, RG92.

Coyle bunk trials--The points in which information is particularly desired, are: Suitableness for use as Army Bunks; Are they strong enough? Are they as good or better than the bunks made by the Composite Iron Company of New York? What improvements, if any, can be made on them?

--Meigs to L. C. Easton, Sept. 18, 1874, QMConFile-Bunks, RG92.

Coyle bunk--The couplings in the sample exhibited to me were not as stout as they should be; they should be made stronger.

--Meigs to H. B. Coyle, Sept. 18, 1874, QMConFile--Bunks, RG92.

1875:

I am glad to say that the double and two-story wooden bunks are now very nearly abolished, and that the iron bunks now furnished by the Quartermaster's Department are very satisfactory, with the exception of a few, which are two-story in pattern--that is, an iron frame containing two beds, one four or five feet above the other. Under no circumstances, except for the most temporary emergency, should beds be arranged in this manner. It is connected with deficient air-space, and

gives an appearance of room when there is not. Every man should have his sixty square feet of floor space as much as his ration.

--Billings, in Report on Hygiene, xviii.

Coyle bunks, Fort Monroe, Virginia--I consider them to be more suitable for use in the Military Service than the Standard [probably Composite] Bunk. The "Coyle" Bunk is lighter and more easily handled than the Standard Bunk; and when placed one upon the other the space between them is seven (7) inches greater than the Standard Bunk.

--Capt. James H. Piper to Quartermaster General USA, Aug. 24, 1875, QMConFile--Bunks, RG92.

1876:

Coyle bunks, Fort Columbus, New York--I have found them, without exception, the best Army Bunks I have ever seen. They are light, easily handled, can be packed in small compass, and kept absolutely clean without difficulty. In addition, they are far more comfortable for beds and can be used as seats without injury.

--Lieut. C. S. Roberts to Post Adjutant, Jan. 19, 1876, QMConFile--Bunks, RG92.

Coyle bunks--For the following reasons, they are in my opinion, the best bunks now in use. The slats cannot warp and bend out of shape, as those now generally in use do. The side rails keep the bedsack in place and prevent the occupant from sliding off the bedsack. They occupy less space in the squad-rooms. They are strong enough for all practical

purposes, and at the same time light and easily handled, and they are easily kept clean.

--Lieut. William Auman to Quartermaster General USA, Jan. 23, 1876, QMConFile--Bunks, RG92.

Coyle bunks--Taken altogether, I consider that they possess every advantage over any bunk yet seen in use in the Army.

--Lieut. J. S. King to Quartermaster General, Jan. 25, 1876, QMConFile--Bunks, RG92.

Coyle bunks, Fort Columbus, New York--[After six months' trial they are] superior to any of the kind heretofore in use for comfort, cleanliness, and economy of space.

--Maj. C. E. A. Crofton to Quartermaster General USA, Feb. 2, 1876, QMConFile--Bunks, RG92.

The Board regards with much favor the "Coyle" Army bunk of the pattern shown in the papers submitted by the Acting Quartermaster-General. It is believed to be entirely suitable for Army use, and better in some respects than the bunks of other kinds heretofore furnished. It is thought, however, that a foot-board the same as the headboard should be added. With this improvement, the Board recommends that it be hereafter supplied the Army, provided it can be purchased as low or lower than the bunk made and furnished by the Compoiste Iron Company, of New York. The agent of the "Coyle" bunk submitted a new pattern of Army bunk which he regards as an improvement over that submitted by the Acting Quartermaster-General,

but the Board, while recognizing its greater compactness and portability, does not regard it as favorably. Philadelphia, Pa., March 16, 1876.

--Report of a board of officers reviewing the Coyle army bunk proposed for adoption, QMConFile--Bunks, RG92; also in ARQMG 1876, 225.

The Coyle army iron gas-pipe bunk favorably reported on and admitted to competition in future contracts.

--ARQMG 1876, 129.

Bedding

1852-53:

Fort Leavenworth, Kansas--A bed sack, refilled with prairie hay (Arnold called it prairie feathers) once a month, and a pair of soldier blankets, with overcoat, or anything else one could utilize for a pillow.

--Lowe, Five Years a Dragoon, 76-77.

1854:

Musicians' training barrack, Governors Island, New York--The beds consisted of a bedsack stuffed with straw, which was rolled up in the day time, and a pair of blankets, neatly folded, laid on top. There were no sheets nor pillows for the boys--the corporal was the only one who enjoyed these luxuries, and he had provided them himself. The boys slept on the bedticks and covered themselves with their blankets when it was cold, or used one of the blankets to lie on when it was warm enough,

folding up a jacket or some other piece of clothing as a substitute for a pillow.

--Meyers, Ten Years in the Ranks, 2.

1856:

Fort Leavenworth, Kansas--We had to clean our quarters, draw rations, put in a supply of wood, fill our bed sacks, and so on.

--Bandel, Frontier Life in the Army, 102.

1870:

Fort Brown, Texas--The men sleep . . . on bedsacks filled with hay.

--Billings, Report on Barracks and Hospitals, 208.

Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania--[The bunks] are furnished with the usual bedsack.

--Ibid., 60.

Fort Clark, Texas--[The] bedsacks are filled with hay.

--Ibid., 220.

Fort D. A. Russell, Wyoming--The beds, of bedsacks filled with hay

--Ibid., 342.

Fort Fred Steele, Wyoming--[The bunks are furnished] with ordinary bedsacks

--Ibid., 342.

Fort Garland, Colorado--[The bunks are] furnished with the usual bedding.

--Ibid., 321.

Fort Griffin, Texas--Each man has his own bedsack.

--Ibid., 195.

Fort Hays, Kansas--The bedding consists of bedsacks, washed and filled with fresh straw monthly.

--Ibid., 306.

Fort Independence, Massachusetts--[Each bunk] is furnished with a bedsack filled with hay or straw.

--Ibid., 16.

Jefferson Barracks, Missouri--Their bedding consists of a sack filled with straw

--Ibid., 279.

Fort Jefferson, Florida--And the bedding is aired at least twice a week.

--Ibid., 154.

Fort Johnston, North Carolina--Double and single bedsacks, filled with straw, are used for bedding.

--Ibid., 92; the bunks were all double, of wood.

Fort Laramie, Wyoming--A few of the men have buffalo robes. The most of them are fain to protect themselves against the rigor of the winter by eking out their scanty covering with their overcoats. They nearly all complain of sleeping cold.

--Ibid., 347.

Fort Macon, North Carolina--The bedding is sufficient and of good quality.

--Ibid., 88.

Post at Mobile, Alabama--The bedding consists of straw mattresses

--Ibid., 160.

Fort Monroe, Virginia--[The bunks] are covered with bedsacks filled with straw, which is replaced by fresh at least once a month, or oftener, if required.

--Ibid., 75.

Newport Barracks, Kentucky--[The bunks are furnished] with the customary bedding.

--Ibid., 135.

Fort Pike, Louisiana--[Each bunk is] furnished with bedsack.

--Ibid., 167.

Fort Pulaski, Georgia--[The men sleep on] straw mattresses.

--Ibid., 149.

Fort Richardson, Texas--The bedding consists of . . . double bedsacks filled with hay, which is renewed monthly.

--Ibid., 186.

Post at San Antonio, Texas--[The bunks are furnished with] the usual bedding.

--Ibid., 183.

Fort San Carlos de Barrancas, Florida--And the bedsacks [are] filled with straw.

--Ibid., 156.

Post at Shreveport, Louisiana--[The bunks are furnished] with the usual bedding.

--Ibid., 175.

Fort Stanton, New Mexico--[The men sleep on bunks] containing bedsacks, etc.

--Ibid., 248.

Fort Stockton, Texas--The men sleep on straw ticks.

--Ibid., 225.

Camp Supply, Oklahoma--[The men sleep on] bedsacks filled with hay

--Ibid., 262.

Taylor Barracks, Kentucky--The bedding of the men is good in quality and abundant in quantity.

--Ibid., 139.

Fort Wadsworth, New York--[The] bedsacks are filled with straw, and changed as often as required to insure cleanliness and health.

--Ibid., 18.

Fort Wadsworth, Dakota--[The bunks are] furnished with the usual bedding.

--Ibid., 378.

Fort Warren, Massachusetts--[The bunks are furnished] with the usual bedding.

--Ibid., 7.

Fort Wingate, New Mexico--[The] bedsacks [are] filled with hay.

--Ibid., 251.

1872:

Fort Davis, Texas--The troops are now supplied with single iron Bunks, and bedsacks filled with hay and blankets, but their beds are never tidy, or orderly.

--Medical History of Fort Davis, May 1872.

1875:

But even with the single bunks the supply of bedding is unsatisfactory. No sheets or pillows are furnished, and the men come into direct contact with the blankets, and use their greatcoats for pillows. The blankets are seldom washed, although they are aired and beaten occasionally. The

bedsacks are usually too short, and, as Colonel C. H. Smith . . . remarks, "No amount of too short bed can make a man comfortable."

The recommendation of Dr. Patzki, that wire mattresses, hair-pillows, and sheets be furnished for the troops, is believed to be a good one, the results of which in promoting comfort and content among the men, would be a full equivalent for the money it would cost.

--Report on Hygiene, xviii.

1876:

To meet a want felt in the Army, the Secretary of War, on 18th September 1875, on recommendation of the Acting Quartermaster General, authorized issue of pillow-sacks to the troops. They are made from a very large stock of shelter-tents in store. Their issue has made it necessary to increase the monthly allowance of straw to enlisted men.

--ARQMG 1876, 126.

Blankets

1814:

George Town--[I have] had the delivery of a number of Patent Blankets. I took notice they were very durable, they keep the wet or dampness from the soldier better than the Common Blanket (such as was usually

delivered soldiers). I think they answer better than the Indian Blanket. They only want a little more in length.

--Statement of Lieut. W. C. Hobbs, 36th Infantry, July 19, 1814, QMConFile--Blankets, RG92.

1861:

The troops in the field need Blankets. The supply in the country is exhausted. Men spring to arms faster than the mills can manufacture, and large quantities ordered from abroad have not yet arrived.

To relieve pressing necessities, contributions are invited from the surplus stores of families.

The regulation army Blanket weighs five pounds; but good, sound woolen Blankets weighing not less than four pounds, will be gladly received at the offices of the United States Quartermasters in the principal towns of the loyal States, and applied to the use of the troops.

To such as have Blankets which they can spare, but cannot afford to give, the full market value of suitable Blankets, delivered as above, will be paid.

New York, October 1, 1861. M. C. Meigs,
Quartermaster-General United States.

--Notice published in newspapers, clippings in QMConFile--Blankets, RG92.

Civil War:

Shoddy blankets--[Shoddy is] a villainous compound, the refuse stuff and sweepings of the shop, pounded, rolled, glued, and smoothed to the external form and gloss of cloth, but no more like the genuine article than the shadow is to the substance. [Soldiers issued blankets and clothes of shoddy found them on the first march or during the first storm] scattering to the winds in rags, or dissolving into their primitive elements of dust under the pelting rain.

--Tomes, "The Fortunes of War," 227-28.

1872:

The new Mission Mills blanket--This blanket costs more than the old one, but it is warmer, softer, and will be more durable than any heretofore issued.

--ARQMG 1872, 141-42.

1876:

As the black stripe and letters "U. S.," now used to mark the Army blanket, appear to injure its durability, arrangements have been made to substitute indigo-blue letters and stripes in future contracts.

--ARQMG 1876, 127.

Lighting

Civil War:

For lighting these huts the government furnished candles in limited quantities: at first long ones, which had to be cut for distribution; but later they provided short ones. [Supplies were inconsistent. Only the infantry had "official candlesticks" (bayonets).] Quite often the candle was set upon a box in its own drippings.

Whenever candles failed, slush lamps were brought into use. These I have seen made by filling a sardine box with cook-house grease, and inserting a piece of rag in one corner for a wick. The whole was then suspended from the ridgepole of the hut by a wire. This wire came to camp around bales of hay brought to the horses and mules.

--Billings, Hardtack and Coffee, 72-73.

1880:

[The few candles in barracks sufficed only] to render darkness visible.

--Quoted in Foner, United States Soldier Between Wars, 18.

[If the General of the Army wishes to know why the men desert,] he has only to look into our dungeon barracks with the men huddled around the flickering flame of one or two candles. How many evenings would he or any officer spend in such a hole?

--Officer quoted *ibid.*

1881:

[Now that lamps will be issued,] the men, being able to read without injury to their eyes, spend more time in rational amusements and less time at the sutler store, at the grog-shops, and in the guardhouse.

--ARSecWar 1881, 12-13.

So if "fiat lux" the order is,
And candles are shown the door,
Round the bright kerosene twenty men will be seen,
To one at the trader's store.

--Enlisted man quoted in Foner, United States Soldier Between Wars, 78.

Heating

1843:

Fort Atkinson, Iowa--A requisition for 19 stoves for the hospital and officers' and men's quarters has been forwarded to the quartermaster at St. Louis, which I trust may be immediately met, so that they may be here before the commencement of the winter. Many of the chimneys smoke so badly that no comfort can be expected without stoves, and more than this, a great saving of fuel will be made, for to supply the fire places the daily labor of 25 axe men and five teamsters is requisite during the winter, whereas 10 axe men and 2 teamsters can supply the stoves.

--Prucha, Army Life, 49.

1852-53:

Fort Leavenworth, Kansas--If the Government allowance for wood was not sufficient, we took a company team, made a detail, and hauled more from above the post.

--Lowe, Five Years a Dragoon, 76-77.

1854-55:

Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania--The rooms were heated by stoves in which we burned wood. They were comfortably warm during the winter, which I found less severe in Southern Pennsylvania than in New York.

--Meyers, Ten Years in the Ranks, 36.

1855-56:

Fort Pierre, Dakota--Each [portable wooden] house was furnished with two sheet iron stoves for burning wood, and had stove pipes passing through the roof.

Officers and soldiers suffered alike. The miserable huts in which we lived during the winter were unfit for stables. We almost froze in them, and when spring came, the mud roofs leaked like sieves.

I look back upon the winter passed at Fort Pierre as one of great suffering and hardship, by far the worst that I went through during my service.

--Ibid., 72, 106-07.

1856:

Fort Leavenworth, Kansas--We had to clean our quarters, draw rations, put in a supply of wood, fill our bed sacks, and so on.

--Bandel, Frontier Life in the Army, 102.

1857:

[We request an appropriation] of twenty thousand dollars to provide stoves for the quarters of officers and soldiers, not exceeding two to each officer above the rank of captain, and one to each captain and subaltern, and four to each company of soldiers above 40° of north latitude, and two to each company below that latitude There has never been an appropriation for either stoves or . . . though the former are really necessary in the winter-season in all the northern and northwestern portions of our country, and are often necessary in the western and southern portions of it.

--Jesup to Secretary of War, Jan. 26, 1857, reproduced in ARQMG 1876, 269.

Civil War:

Winter huts--The fireplaces were built of brick, of stone, or of wood. [The chimneys were laid up outside the huts.]

--Billings, Hardtack and Coffee, 46-47.

1870:

Fort Laramie, Wyoming--[All the barracks are heated by stoves.] The most of [the men] are fain to protect themselves against the rigor of the winter They nearly all complain of sleeping cold.

--Billings, Report on Barracks and Hospitals, 347.

1874:

Fort Robinson, Nebraska--[The delivery of heating stoves was delayed by] criminal neglect.

--Grange, "Fort Robinson," 203.

1875:

The cost of providing stoves for the Army is now large and seems to be increasing from year to year. [Standard patterns and regulations on distribution should be established.]

--Meigs to Secretary of War, April 8, 1875, ARQMG 1876, 269.

[Because of the absence of uniform patterns and of regulations on the use of stoves, and to bring expenses under control, on April 8, 1875 the Quartermaster General proposed to the Secretary] that some general pattern of cooking and heating stoves and ranges should be adopted, and the number to be supplied to officers and troops prescribed by regulations; that the stoves of no particular manufacturer should be

adopted, but that general specifications of size and construction, of plain, substantial, and convenient heating and cooking stoves, adapted to the use of bituminous and anthracite coals, and wood, should be drawn up, published, and followed hereafter. [A board of officers assembled in Omaha May 15, to do all that, but had not reported by the end of the fiscal year.]

--M. I. Ludington to Meigs, Aug. 14, 1875, ARQMG 1875, 250-51.

It should be borne in mind that the expense of providing the Army with stoves is very great.

--Meigs to Col. J. C. Davis, May 6, 1875, ARQMG 1876, 267-68.

1880:

Most of the stoves issued to the Army are now manufactured at the Rock Island arsenal. Seventy-four were made there during the year; 140 more were ordered in June, which will be delivered during the current fiscal year.

--ARQMG 1880, 322.

Mess Facilities

1813:

[We can supply] a quantity of Camp Kittles at 25 Cts per Lbs & a quantity of Mess pans at 70 Cents per piece [and axes and chains.]

--Proposal of William Romy, 1813, QMConFile--Kitchen Equipment 1813, RG92.

1820:

Cantonment Missouri, Nebraska--[It is already February and still there are not enough tables or shelving to hold] table furniture and fragments of provisions.

--Quoted in Johnson, "Cantonment Missouri," 125.

1830:

Post at Alexandria, Virginia--In the company messroom, I found a range of tables, neatly garnished with clean table clothes and the requisite furniture for dinner. I found a non-com presiding at the end of each table, with an ample tureen of excellent turtle soup before him, from which he was helping his mess mates.

--Inspection report of Col. William McRae, quoted in Kummerow and Brown, Enlisted Barracks at Fort Snelling, 20.

1844:

Fort Pike, Louisiana--The kitchen and its utensils, the mess room, and mess furniture are in good condition

--Prucha, Army Life, 67.

New Orleans Barracks, Louisiana--The mess rooms and kitchens are as clean and neat as any one could desire.

--Ibid., 68.

Fort Washita, Oklahoma--The kitchens and mess rooms are in good order, but having dirt floors, they can not be made to look very neatly. One of the companies, G, spreads its table under a shed, which I take for granted will be boarded up before the cold weather sets in.

--Ibid.

1857:

Fort McHenry, Maryland, kitchens in both barracks--No. 1 Cook room . . . has had cook range repaired, new lock on door, plastered and repainted, wants floor [illegible] cook range repaired. No. 2. Cook room . . . cook range repaired, new locks on door, plastered and repainted.

--J. L. Donaldson to Lieut. Col. H. Brooks, July 3, 1857, QMConFile--McHenry, Fort, RG92.

1860:

Recruits bound for their regiments, Governors Island, New York--One morning a few days later we formed on the parade ground, fully equipped with knapsack, haversack, tin cup, tin plate, knife, fork and spoon, a canteen and three days' rations of boiled salt pork and hard bread stowed in our haversacks; but without arms.

--Meyers, Ten Years in the Ranks, 160.

1870:

Fort Laramie, Wyoming--[The kitchens in the men's quarters] all are provided with cooking-stoves, tables, and benches. Most of the companies are in possession of good mess furniture, consisting of delf plates, bowls, and knives and forks.

--Billings, Report on Barracks and Hospitals, 347.

Fort Davis, Texas--B. Co. . . . Kitchen in all respects, in very good condition. C. Co. . . . Kitchen, neat and clean except tables. K. Co. . . . Kitchen--Range not clean, table dirty, shelves in cupboard dirty, Provision boxes and packs for the same dirty.

--Medical History of Fort Davis, Jan. 5, 1870.

Fort Davis, Texas--C. Co. . . . Kitchen clean. Provision boxes also.
K. Co. . . . Kitchen, Range dirty. Cupboard in which dishes are kept
dirty.

--Ibid., Jan. 7, 1870.

1872:

Fort Davis, Texas--The mess rooms and kitchens are not plastered--have
earth floors--and are equally as dirty and untidy as the barracks.

--Ibid., May 1872.

Other Contents of Barracks

1826:

Cantonment Oglethorpe, Georgia--Fire hook and chain . . . \$10.00. Fire
buckets . . . \$25.00.

-- Report of the Quartermaster General upon the Subject of Barracks,
Storehouses, Hospitals, &c. (1827), 7.

1833:

Hancock Barracks, Maine--[After a fire destroyed one of the barracks,
officers, noncommissioned officers, and enlisted men petitioned Congress
for compensation for] a considerable loss of furniture and personal
apparel; that this loss was greatly increased by their personal exertions
having been principally directed to the preservation of the other

buildings, and for which purpose the carpets and blankets belonging to both officers and men were used, and partially or wholly destroyed

--Report on Claim (op. cit.).

1838:

[The many worn-out hoes, kettles, and other objects carried on the inventory at nearly every post] serve but to lumber up the store rooms.

Prucha, Army Life, 83, 85.

1852-53:

Fort Leavenworth, Kansas--Cook got some barrels and had them sawed in two for bath tubs, which we could use in the dining room between supper and tattoo.

--Lowe, Five Years a Dragoon, 77.

1853:

Fort Leavenworth, Kansas--[The company commander organized a subscription among the officers and men to purchase a library, which was delivered in February. It included a set of] Harpers Classical and Family Libraries [in] a pair of book cases, with hinges closing the edges on one side, and two locks the edges on the other side, held the library of uniform size and binding. When open the title of each book could be

read, and when closed no book could move or get out of place; the books were all the same length and breadth, and an excellent collection.

--Ibid., 98-99.

1854:

Musicians' training barrack Governors Island, New York--A wide shelf around the room above the beds provide space for knapsacks, extra shoes, drums, fifes, and other objects, and on hooks under the shelf were hung the overcoats. There was a coal fire burning in the grate. A few wooden benches and a chair for the corporal in charge; this, with a water pail and a tin cup on a shelf behind the door, completed the furniture of the room.

--Meyers, Ten Years in the Ranks, 2-3; cf. Ostrander's description of the same room in 1864, below.

1857:

Fort McHenry, Maryland--[Both barracks] Have had new locks on doors.

--J. L. Donaldson to Lieut. Col. H. Brooks, July 3, 1857, QMConFile--McHenry, Fort, RG92.

Fort Leavenworth, Kansas--So far as books are concerned, the lack of which I feel, as you may well believe, you are mistaken. Here a soldier is not, as in Germany, limited to his knapsack. For instance, I have a large chest full of tools [most of which I made myself, because I am the company armorer], a trunk full of underwear and clothing, and a small

chest of miscellaneous matter, such as books, tobacco, and the like. Then, too, I have two knapsacks (quite different from the German knapsacks which, however, no soldier here carries at all) full of soldier clothes and bedding, consisting of two woolen blankets and a buffalo fur. Consequently you will see that, although not all of the soldiers, nor even most of them, have as many chests, boxes, and packages as I have, it requires many wagons to transport a regiment across the prairies

--Bandel, Frontier Life in the Army, 114.

Civil War:

Many of these huts were deemed incomplete until a sign appeared over the door. Here and there some one would make an attempt at having a door-plate of wood suitably inscribed; but the more common sight was a sign over the entrance bearing such inscriptions, rudely cut or marked with Charcoal, as: "Parker House," "Hole in the War," "Mose Pearson's," "Astor House," "Willard's Hotel," "Five Points," and other titles equally absurd, expressing in this ridiculous way the vagaries of the inmates.

--Billings, Hardtack and Coffee, 47.

[In a winter hut knapsacks or bundles or personal effects were placed at the head of the bunk. Haversacks, canteens, and equipment usually hung on pegs in the walls, but there was no regular place for muskets. Hardtack boxes, the lids on leather hinges, served as "dish closets," and others on legs made tables, around which were homemade three- or four-legged stools. There might be a shelf over the fireplace for "bric-a-brac."] But such a hut as this one I have been describing was

rather high-toned. There were many huts without any of these conveniences.

--Ibid., 70-71.

1864:

Musicians' training barracks, Governors Island, New York--A wide shelf for knapsacks, shoes, drums, and other properties ran around the room above the beds, and on hooks under the shelf were hung articles of clothing.

Ostrander, Army Boy, 15.

1866:

New Post on the Upper San Pedro, Arizona--[In the tent of 1st Sergeant David Grew, Company G, 1st Cavalry,] neither did I observe in the half-darkness of the tent, illumined by a solitary tallow candle, a tumbler, a sugar bowl, and some lemons standing on a cracker box near his bed. . . . I placed my bottle and cigars on Grew's homemade table; he carried a corkscrew of course.

--Spring, John Spring's Arizona, 62.

1870:

While it may be perfectly true that at almost every post the bath-tub should be considered as important an article of equipment as the

cooking-stove, it is still no good excuse for lack of bathing facilities that regular bath-tubs and circulating boilers have not been furnished.

--Billings, Report on Barracks and Hospitals, xvii.

Camp Bowie, Arizona--[The barracks have] no other furniture than the rough bunks.

--Ibid., 471.

Camp Crittenden, Arizona.--[Besides bunks, the] only fixtures are wooden arm-racks and benches.

--Ibid., 474.

Fort Foote, Maryland--Over each [bunk] is a shelf for the knapsack of the soldier.

--Ibid., 68.

Fort Independence, Massachusetts--The furniture of these squad rooms is little beside the stove, bunks, and bedding, the clothing, arms and accoutrements of the men.

--Ibid., 16.

Madison Barracks, New York--Each squad-room is thoroughly fitted up with gun racks, lockers for the clothing and effects of the men, tables, chairs, shelves, and clothes-hooks . . . [each] locker and shelf are painted with [the soldier's] name and company number.

--Ibid., 99.

Fort Monroe, Virginia--The men sleep in the main room of the company quarters . . . in which, too, are kept their boxes, extra clothing, apparatus for cleaning arms, accoutrements &c.

--Ibid., 75.

Camp Verde, Arizona--[The] only fixtures or furniture is a double line of bunks

--Ibid., 469.

Fort Washington, Maryland--[Besides bunks, the barracks are] also fitted with . . . lockers, and gun racks.

--Ibid., 70.

Fort Davis, Texas--There is in all the Quarters a want of system of arranging the boxes. Many of them being placed in the middle of the

floor and used to sit on. I would suggest that several benches be provided for each barrack.

--Medical History of Fort Davis, Jan. 7, 1870.

Babcock fire extinguishers--These machines are designed, not as a means of extinguishing large conflagrations, but of preventing them, and, being portable and self-acting, are always available for immediate action.

--ARQMG 1870, 189-90.

1874:

Johnson pump fire extinguisher--Careful experiments in this city having shown that a small hand force-pump, known as Johnson's Hand Force-Pump, is quite as efficient in extinguishing flames as the chemical fire-extinguisher, its use has been adopted, and two hundred and fourteen have been distributed to military posts. They have saved much property.

--ARQMG 1874, 123.

1875:

General Orders No. 56, War Department, Adjutant-General's Office, April 30, 1875, directs the Quartermaster's Department to provide in all permanent barracks a box or locker 24 inches in length, 12 inches in breadth, and 10 inches in height, for each soldier to store his dress uniform and extra clothing; the boxes to be permanent fixtures of the

barracks. They are being supplied upon the requisition of the proper officers.

--ARQMG 1875, 197.

I would strongly urge that cheap, strong bathing-tubs, or other means of cleansing the whole body, should be as regular a part of the supply of a post as bedsteads.

--Billings, in Report on Hygiene, x-xi.

1877:

[To improve the life of the soldiers, they should be regularly supplied with volumes of the classics and the best current literature, including newspapers and magazines,] and these publications should be regularly sent to each company in the Army, whether at regular and permanent posts or not.

--ARSecWar 1877, vii.

1878:

Under [the Secretary of War's] instructions to provide chairs for use in barracks by soldiers, who have heretofore been accustomed to sit on benches or boxes or their beds, arrangements have been made to manufacture a sufficient supply for the barracks and posts east of the Rocky Mountains, at the military prison, at a cost of \$1 for each chair. To supply the distant posts beyond the Rocky Mountains contracts have been made on the Pacific coast, at \$1.66-2/3 each chair.

The chair adopted as a model is a strong, substantial wooden chair, with wooden molded seat. It is easy, durable, and cheap, and will add much to the comfort of troops, and at a very moderate expenditure.

--ARQMG 1878, 262.

1881:

On the subject of bath-rooms there is absolute unanimity. The Regulations say the men must be made to bathe frequently; the doctors say it should be done; the men want to do it; their company officers wish them to do so; the Quartermaster's Department says it is most important, yet we have no bathrooms.

[Anderson, "Army Posts, Barracks, and Quarters," 433-34.]

The reading-rooms established at most of the posts are very popular with enlisted men as well as officers. The average daily attendance upon them is about 4,800.

--ARSecWar 1881, 23.

Guardhouses

1805:

Fort Detroit, Michigan--[A] guard house also will be requisite, of one story, and about 15 feet square. The walls of the guard house should be built of square timber of nine inches thickness.

--Secretary of War Dearborn to Commanding Officer at Detroit, Aug. 5, 1805, quoted in Prucha, Sword of the Republic, 174.

1857:

Fort Randall, Dakota--When my ten days of solitary confinement expired, I commenced the last term of ten days at hard labor the same as before. During those terms I had to sleep on the floor in the large prison room with the other prisoners. I would have preferred to sleep in the cell alone.

--Meyers, Ten Years in the Ranks, 132.

1869:

--Fort Davis, Texas--[The post surgeon has inspected the guardhouse often,] and under his directions disinfectants have been freely and constantly used.

--Medical History of Fort Davis, Nov. 1869.

1870:

Fort McHenry, Maryland--The guard-house is warmed by stoves, ventilation is rather imperfect, and the building is believed to be decidedly unhealthy.

--Billings, Report on Barracks and Hospitals, 65.

Fort Pulaski, Georgia--[The guard house consists of three casemates, warmed by] large stoves and open fireplaces.

--Ibid., 149.

Fort Laramie, Wyoming--[The upper floor houses one room for the men of the guard, another for the officer, plastered and ceiled, with six windows between them.] The larger room contains a rough board bed, where all the members of the guard who are off duty may lie down, a couple of chairs, and a desk. [The upper rooms are warmed by stoves.] The basement room is of rough stones, whitewashed, has one door and a window towards the river, and on the opposite side at the top two small windows for ventilation. A couple of cells are partitioned off in the south side for refractory prisoners.

The prisoners are all kept in the basement room which contains no furniture. There are ten prisoners at present. The basement room is neither warmed nor lighted.

--Ibid., 348.

1872:

Fort Davis, Texas--In accordance with the communication of the Post Surgeon . . . the Guard House was enlarged by adding on a new room 12 x 16. This building is never well policed, always in a very filthy and disgusting condition, although disinfectants are freely issued from the Hospital. They are either wasted or improperly used by reason of it not being the obligation of any one to superintend this matter.

--Medical History of Fort Davis, May 1872.

1873-75:

Probably Fort Randall, Dakota--The guard house clock the guard
house broom

--Cox, Five Years in the United States Army, 70-73.